

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (BROOKE, EDWARD W., SENATOR), PFOR, HA

SUBJECT: REPORT ON VISIT OF SENATOR EDWARD W. BROOKE TO HAITI

REF: A. STATE 73994; B. STATE 70440

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR EDWARD BROOKE OF MASSACHUSETTS, SENIOR MINORITY MEMBER OF THE OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VISITED HAITI APRIL 15-18 TO EXAMINE THE U.S. AID PROGRAM. HE CONFERRED WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER AND TOP GOH OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND OF COUNTRIES WITH BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS, VIEWED AID-SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD AND MET REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS. SUBCOMMITTEE MINORITY COUNSEL DAVID ROSSITER REMAINED IN HAITI UNTIL APRIL 21 FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE USAID PROGRAM AND AN INFORMAL VISIT WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT PLAY A BONAFIDE OPPOSITION ROLE. SENATOR BROOKE APPEARED IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HAITI AND BY THE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO ACHIEVE SOME PROGRESS IN THAT DIRECTION, BUT NOTED THAT THE GOH HAD NOT BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN PRESENTING ITS CASE TO AMERICAN OPINION.

2. SENATOR BROOKE MET WITH:

A. EMBASSY PERSONNEL FOR INTENSIVE BRIEFINGS ON POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS;

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B. REPRESENTATIVES OF IMF, IDB, UNDP AND OAS FOR

DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES;

C. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERIOR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE
(AND ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY) PAUL BLANCHET FOR A
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF HAITI'S PROBLEMS;

D. REPRESENTATIVES OF CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND
CHURCH WORLD SERVICES FOR A REVIEW OF THEIR PROGRAMS;

E. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, CANADA, GERMANY,
ISRAEL, VENEZUELA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR A
LUNCHEON DISCUSSION OF THEIR BILATERAL EFFORTS AND
THEIR GENERAL ESTIMATES OF THE SITUATION IN HAITI;

F. USAID PERSONNEL FOR A DETAILED PRESENTATION ON U.S.
PROGRAMS;

G. HAITIAN SECRETARIES OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, PUBLIC
HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND UNDER SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC HEALTH FOR A GENERAL DINNER
DISCUSSION OF HAITIAN AFFAIRS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS
OF RESPONSIBILITY;

H. REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS DOING BUSINESS
IN HAITI FOR A DISCUSSION OF INVESTMENT PROBLEMS.

3. THE SENATOR VISITED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF
AID-SUPPORTED HAITIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY HELP ORGANIZATION
IN NORTHWEST HAITI AND THE AMERICAN-OPERATED ALBERT SCHWEITZER
HOSPITAL IN THE ARTIBONITE VALLEY.

4. ON APRIL 18 SENATOR BROOKE CALLED ON PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE
DUVALIER (REPORTED SEPARATELY).

5. DURING HIS CALL ON MINISTER PAUL BLANCHET AND HIS DINNER
MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBERS, SENATOR BROOKE EXPRESSED HIS
DESIRE TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS ABOUT HAITIAN EXILE ALLEGATIONS
ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS, POLITICAL PERSECUTION, INABILITY OF
HAITIAN REFUGEES TO RETURN TO HAITI, DIVERSION OF PL-480 FOOD
TO THE MILITARY, AND EXCESSIVE EXPENDITURES ON ARMS.

6. BLANCHET SAID THE SENATOR COULD SEE FOR HIMSELF THAT A
CLIMATE OF PEACE AND PROGRESS WAS EVERYWHERE EVIDENT IN HAITI
AND STRESSED THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN HAITI AND THE PRIORITY THE PRESIDENT WAS GIVING TO ACTION IN
THIS FIELD. BLANCHET EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHILE FOREIGN
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TECHNICIANS COULD HELP BY TEACHING HAITIANS HOW TO DO THINGS
BETTER, FOREIGNERS COULD NOT SOLVE HAITI'S PROBLEMS FOR THE
HAITIANS. NATIONAL PRIDE, PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL PURPOSE COULD
ACCOMPLISH MUCH MORE THAN ANY AMOUNT OF FOREIGN AID.

7. COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SECRETARY FOURCAND, AT THE DINNER
MEETING, SAID THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER, BY HIS ACTIONS OF THE
PAST NINE MONTHS, HAD MADE CLEAR HIS INTENTION TO MODERNIZE

HAITI'S ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE, GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT, AND ROOT OUT CORRUPT PRACTICES. FOURCAND CITED THE QUALITY AND TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF PERSONNEL NOW IN HIGH OFFICE, PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS TO CURB CORRUPT INFLUENCES (WHICH HE SAID EMBASSY PERSONNEL COULD EXPLAIN IN MORE DETAIL TO THE SENATOR) AND OTHER FINANCIAL REFORMS. HE NOTED THAT THE EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME OF GOH HAD BEEN CUT BY 45 PERCENT IN THE PAST FIVE MONTHS (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE TOBACCO AND MATCH MONOPOLY). HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GOH HAD CONCLUDED A CONTRACT WITH TWO AMERICAN TAX EXPERTS TO BE PAID EXCLUSIVELY BY GOH "AT AMERICAN SALARIES", TO UNDERTAKE A REFORM OF THE HAITIAN TAX OFFICE AND IMPROVE COLLECTION PROCEDURES.

8. REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS, AT LUNCHEON, STATED THAT NO PRIVATE PROPERTY OR BUSINESS ASSETS HAD BEEN EXPROPRIATED BY GOH AND THAT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN WHO HAD GOOD HAITIAN LEGAL ADVICE AND OPERATED IN CONFORMITY WITH LOCAL LAW HAD NO EXTRAORDINARY PROBLEMS. THERE WERE PROBLEMS OF BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE BUT LAWYERS AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES COULD HANDLE THESE.

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